

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the patent application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 32-44 are pending in this application.

Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the final office action of October 21, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 32-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Groat et al. (US-2002/0111884 A1) (hereafter referred to as "*Groat et al.*"). The Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 32, the sole independent claim, contains a combination of elements neither suggested nor taught by *Groat et al.* Claim 32 recites a method for recording a configuration of a purchased data center component automatically to a management system during a purchasing process. The method includes the following steps:

transmitting a purchase order for a component to a supplier, vendor or buying agent, wherein the purchase order is generated from an asset template;

receiving a container including the purchased component, wherein a machine-readable code has been placed on the outside of the container;

scanning the machine-readable code, wherein the code contains information on the configuration of the purchased component;

sending the scanned information regarding the purchased component to an order processing center and a data center management system; and,

correlating the purchased component with a purchase order for the component. (Emphasis added).

Thus, the claimed invention scans a code that contains information on the configuration of the purchased component, and thereafter, using the information to

correlate the purchased component with a purchase order in the data center management system.

In contrast, *Groat et al.* disclose a system for managing information related to a supply chain where an asset (e.g., pump) is given a unique identification code. As disclosed in paragraph 39:

As supplier 300 gathers and generates information about the pump 302, that **information is stored in association** with the identification code 304... the information regarding the pump 302 (also referred to as "asset information") can be **stored centrally in a datastore** 322... Under this approach, **information regarding the pump 302 is stored in the datastore 322 in association with the unique identification code 304.** (Emphasis added).

As disclosed in *Groat et al.*, the information about an asset is not contained in the identification code itself, but rather, is stored in a datastore. As such, the unique identification code, as disclosed in *Groat et al.*, is only an identifier used to retrieve information about an asset, that information being stored in a datastore. In *Groat et al.*, therefore, connection and access to the datastore to which asset information has been stored is necessary to obtain information regarding an asset. In contrast, as claimed in claim 32, information, contained in the code itself, is used to correlate the purchased component with a purchase order in the data center management system.

Thus, *Groat et al.* do not teach or suggest that the identification code of an asset actually contains information regarding the asset, such as configuration information, as required in claim 32. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that the Examiner should withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection over *Groat et al.*

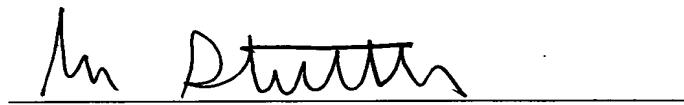
Claims 33-44 are dependent, either directly or indirectly, upon independent claim 32. Therefore, for the same reasons claim 32 is patentable over the cited references, claims 33-44 are patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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